# JUDGE KEENAN

FRIEDMAN, JAMES & BUCHSHAUM LLP Andrew V. Buchsbaum, Esq. (AB. 445) Attorneys for Plaintiff 132 Nassau Street, Suite 900 New York, NY 10038 (212) 233-9385

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

ZAHIA SALEH, individually and as personal representative of the Estate of KHALED G. MUNASSAR, deceased, and for the benefit of all distributees of KHALED G. MUNASSAR, deceased,

Plaintiff,

-against-

MAERSK LINE, LIMITED

Defendant.

DECEIVED JUL 28 2014

U.S.D.C. S.D. N.Y.

PLAINTIPEBEMANDS
A TRIAL BY JURY

**COMPLAINT** 

SEAMAN'S CASE UNDER
THE JONES ACT FOR
PERSONAL INJURIES

SUIT UNDER SPECIAL RULE FOR SEAMEN TO SUE WITHOUT SECURITY OR PREPAYMENT OF FEES FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES, COMMON AND STATUTORY FOR THE PROTECTION OF AND FOR THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF SEAMEN AT SEA

Plaintiff, ZAHIA SALEH, individually and as personal representative of the Estate of KHALED G. MUNASSAR, deceased, and for the benefit of all distributees of KHALED G. MUNASSAR, deceased, complaining of the defendant MAERSK LINE, LIMITED, by her attorneys, FRIEDMAN, JAMES & BUCHSBAUM LLP, respectfully alleges upon information and belief as follows:

#### **Nature of Action:**

1. This action is brought pursuant to the Jones Act, 46 U.S.C § 30104 and the general maritime law of the United States, seeking monetary damages as a result of the drowning death of merchant mariner KHALED G. MUNASSAR, a United States citizen employed by defendant as bosun aboard the United States merchant vessel M/V "Sea-Land Intrepid," on or about February 10, 2014 in the Pacific Ocean approximately 710 miles northeast of Tokyo, Japan.

#### Jurisdiction and Venue:

- 2. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to the Jones Act, 46 U.S.C § 30104 and the general maritime law of the United States in that decedent KHALED G. MUNASSAR was serving as a seaman aboard a vessel in navigable waters and sustained injury eventually resulting in his death while in the course of his employment at the time of the incident giving rise to this action.
- 3. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 45 U.S.C. § 56, as incorporated by the Jones Act, 46 U.S.C. § 30104, inasmuch as defendant MAERSK LINE, LIMITED does business within this District and is authorized to transact business within the State of New York.

### Parties:

4. Plaintiff, ZAHIA SALEH, a citizen and resident of the State of Michigan, is the wife of decedent KHALED G. MUNASSAR and has been appointed personal representative of the Estate of KHALED G. MUNASSAR by the Probate Court of Wayne County, Michigan. A copy of the Letters of Authority for Personal Representative appointing

ZAHIA SALEH as personal representative of the Estate of KHALED G. MUNASSAR is annexed hereto.

- 5. In addition to his wife, plaintiff's decedent, KHALED G. MUNASSAR, left surviving five (5) minor children, all of whom are United States citizens, current ages 2, 9, 13, 15 and 17.
- 6. At all relevant times, defendant MAERSK LINE, LIMITED was and still is a corporation or other entity organized and existing pursuant to the laws of the State of Delaware authorized to transact business in the State of New York.
- 7. At all relevant times, defendant owned the United States merchant vessel "Sea-Land Intrepid."
- 8. At all relevant times, defendant operated the United States merchant vessel "Sea-Land Intrepid."
- 9. At all relevant times, defendant controlled the United States merchant vessel "Sea-Land Intrepid."
- 10. That at all times and dates hereinafter mentioned, the plaintiff's decedent KHALED G. MUNASSAR was a member of the crew of the United States merchant vessel "Sea-Land Intrepid" and an employee of defendant.
- 11. That on or about February 10, 2014, without any fault on the part of the plaintiff's decedent, and wholly and solely by reason of the negligence, recklessness and carelessness of defendant and its servants, agents and/or employees, and by reason of the unseaworthiness of the United States merchant vessel "Sea-Land Intrepid," plaintiff was caused to sustain serious personal injuries, fear of impending death and conscious pain and suffering

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as a result of being washed overboard from the merchant vessel "Sea-Land Intrepid," eventually

resulting in his death by drowning.

12. As a result of the casualty set forth above, plaintiff's decedent, KHALED

G. MUNASSAR was caused to sustain excruciating conscious pain and suffering, and fear of

impending death by drowning; his wife, plaintiff ZAHIA SALEH, and his minor children,

current ages 2, 9, 13, 15 and 17 were caused to sustain pecuniary and other losses including, but

not limited to, the loss of financial support, loss of the value of the services of the decedent, loss

of the nurture and guidance of the decedent, loss of the decedent's continued accumulation of

an inheritable estate, and a loss of the society and consortium of the decedent, for which the

plaintiff seeks recovery of damages herein individually and for the benefit of the decedent's

minor children as aforesaid.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff ZAHIA SALEH, individually and on behalf of all

distributees of KHALED G. MUNASSAR, deceased, demands judgment against defendant

MAERSK LINE, LIMITED in the amount of FIFTEEN MILLION (\$15,000,000.00)

DOLLARS; together with the costs, interest and disbursements of this action, and such other

and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Dated: New York, New York

July 28, 2014

FRIEDMAN, JAMES & BUCHSBAUM LLP

Attorneys for Plaintiff

By:

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Case 1:14-cv-05757-JFK Document 2 Filed 07/28/14 Page 5 of 5 PC572d Jharper 7/23/2014 10:34 AM (i) OSM CODE: LET 90 FILE NO. STATE OF MICHIGAN LETTERS OF AUTHORITY FOR 2014-798959-DA PROBATE COURT Judge Martin T Maher PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE **COUNTY OF WAYNE** Khaled Ghaleb Munassar, Decedent Name, address, and telephone no. TO: Zahia Ahmed Ghaleb Saleh 7449 Maple Street Dearborn, MI 48126 (734)-662-4426 You have been appointed and qualified as Personal Representative of the estate on 07/23/2014 Date You are authorized to do and perform all acts authorized by law except as to the following: **Restrictions:** Fiduciary cannot enter into wrongful death or personal injury settlements without Court authority and without the Probate Court setting an appropriate bond in accordance with MCR 2.420. Real estate is not to be sold, purchased, mortgaged or otherwise alienated without prior Probate Court authority. These letters expire: 9/17/2015 07/23/2014 Judge Martin T Maher Date Bar no. 24099 SEE NOTICE OF DUTIES ON SECOND PAGE 34757 MARTA A MANILDI Bar no. Attorney name (type or print) Attorney name (type or print) Bar no. 7TH FL 101 NORTH MAIN STREET

Address Address (734)-668-7790 ANN ARBOR, MI 48104-1400 Telephone no. Telephone no. City, state, zip City, state, zip

I certify that I have compared this copy with the original on file and that it is a correct copy of the original, and on this date, these letters are in full force and effect.

JUL 2 3 2014

Date

The Letters of Authority are valid only if issued with the raised seal of the Wayne County Probate Court.

Do not write below this line - For court use only

MCL 700.3103; MCL 700.3307, MCL 700.3414, MCL 700.3504, MCL 700.3601,; MCR 5.202, MCR 5.206, MCR 5.307, MCR 5.310

PC 572 (02/13) LETTERS OF AUTHORITY FOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Zahia Ahmed Ghaleb Saleh 7449 Maple Street Dearborn, MI 48126